

The Mystery of America

By STERLING HEILIG.

IT is not often that you see a man of 92 who, after a lifetime of original research, is still writing and has new books in preparation. Such is Henry Vignaud, an American in Paris, of old Louisiana family and the most distinguished of living Americanists.

He would be a striking figure to-day if only from the fact that he came to France in 1863 as secretary to the Confederate diplomatic commission of Mason and Sill. In 1872 he was connected with the Alabama Claims Commission at Geneva. And for fifty years since he served with our diplomatic establishment in Paris, frequently acting as charge d'affaires, and remains to-day honorary counselor of the embassy.

But when you remember that Henry Vignaud is also author of twenty-four works relating to the discovery of America, and several of them of giant proportions; that in his long diplomatic service he had access to collections and enjoyed personal relations with the great on both sides of the Atlantic; that he has long been corresponding member of the French Institute, president of the Society of Americanists of Paris, honored guest at learned international congresses, in technical touch with specialists of the subject—why, then, it is easy to see how the Mystery of America, which he sums up and decides on in the ripe experience of his ninety-second year, is of interest to all Americans.

Who were the aboriginal Americans? Where did the Indians come from? Did they spring from the soil or emigrate from elsewhere? Were their ancestors black, yellow or white—or neither? And the mystery thickens with the extinct civilizations of Mexico and Central and South America, which have left such grand and inexplicable monuments behind them.

The specialists are not agreed. They have explored, dug and photographed; compared hieroglyphics, language roots and human skulls; sounded ocean depths, compared land fossils and criticized obscure Spanish and Indian authors of the Conquest, to form conflicting theories.

The astonishing thing about Henry Vignaud is that in addition to his own researches he has specialized on all these specialists, and is as deeply versed in modern sensational theories, like Enoch's "The Secret of the Pacific" (London, 1912) and Gaffarel's "The Phoenicians in America" (Nancy, 1875), as with grand old deadwood like George Jones's "Identity of the Aborigines with the Tyrians" (New York, London and Paris, 1843) and John Ranking's "Conquest of Peru by the Tartars of Kubla-Khan" (London, 1829).

For the twenty years that I have enjoyed Mr. Vignaud's personal friendship I have admired and wondered at the monumental library (absolutely complete, I think) that he has collected and whose ultimate destination, legally fixed already, is for a great American university.

So, now, to look them over with Henry Vignaud!

Man did not spring from the American soil.

Agassiz, Haeckel, Bory St. Vincent, Morton, Meigs and others thought that he had done so. Huxley was strong for an antarctic continent as spot of origin, and as late as Osborn, the eminent American naturalist ("The Age of Mammals," N. Y., 1910), the idea has been flirted with. The big bump came, however, with the alleged discovery of Ameghino, learned South American naturalist, who proved by bones found on the pampas of the Argentine that all humanity had sprung from down there!

But a Government commission of our Bureau of American Ethnology, led by Hrdlicka and Bailey Willis, the geologist, wiped out this theory, which had enjoyed considerable vogue.

In France, Dr. Rivet and Prof. Verneau polished off the last hopes of American soil origin, in any case. Man did not originate in it, for the fundamental reason that no authentic fossil bones can be produced showing men in America as different from those existing actually.

Man came to America. How?

It is astonishing how many emigration routes have been found! (1)—Bering Strait was formerly an isthmus. Scharff, Lucas and Gill, and Osborn are for it.

(2)—Land united Alaska to the Aleutian Isles and Kamchatka. (3)—A north Atlantic continent united America and Europe by Greenland and Labrador. It included the British Isles, and the climate was temperate. Lapparent, the geologist, claims that it did not sink until the Pleistocene (200,000 years ago) and that man could have remembered it.

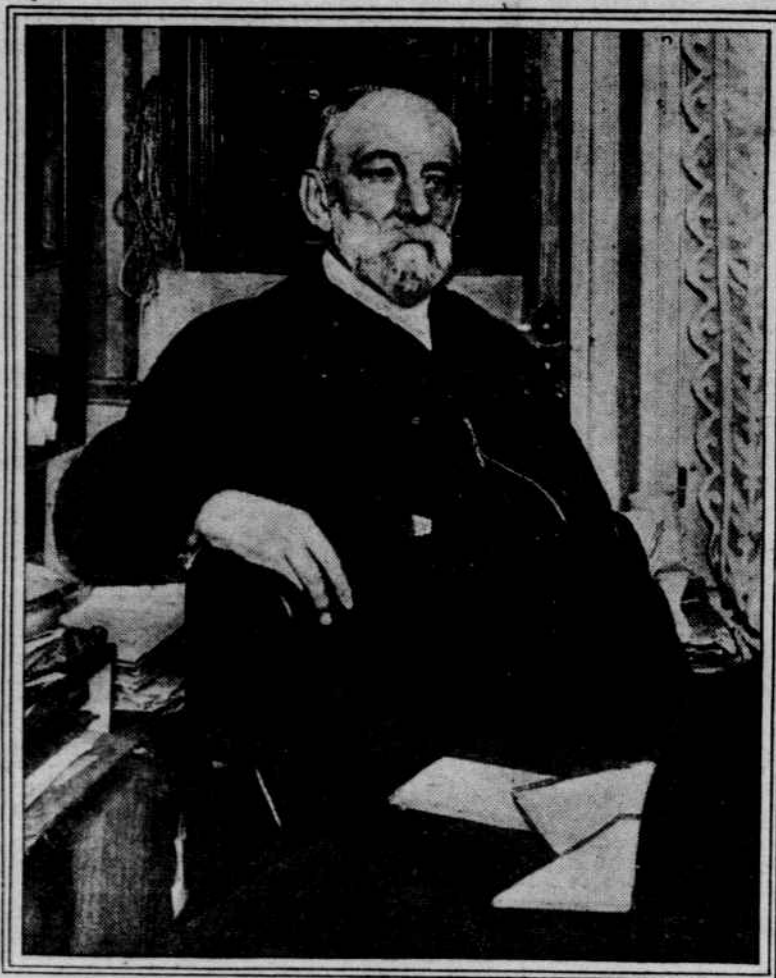
There was (4) another Atlantic continent from the Mediterranean to the Antilles. This was the Lost Atlantis of Plato, Ignatius Donnelly and Pierre Benoit. Then (5) the Africano-Brazilian continent of Haug. (6)—An Australian-Pacific continent, extending to the west coast of South America. The South Sea Islands are its vestiges. Clark claims that America received much of its population by this route. It is "The Secret of the Pacific" in which Reginald Enoch cites vast ruined South

single science but reconciling all as much as possible, cannot go back even that far.

If man were in America in the stone age of the Old World how had he not multiplied beyond the scattered populations discovered in 1492?

Worse, how had they not made more progress up to a date when Chinese and other Asiatics, not to mention Europe, had attained high civilization? As early as B. C. 2,000, says Mr. Vignaud, the Chinese formed civilized communities; "and yet earlier modern investigations indicate the yellow race as having attained great culture." How did those who had gone to America, where nothing opposed their development, remain so far behind?

Why does he make this reference to the yellow race? Because the Indians of both Americas, although their languages have



Henry Vignaud.

Sea Islands monuments to set up this spot as the world's center of civilization! "Enoch is a distinguished archaeologist and knows South America well," says Henry Vignaud courteously.

Then (7) there was an Americano-Africano-Australian continent, urged by Marcou, eminent French geologist. It is more or less (8) the Austro-Indo-Madagascar continent of Haug, the "Gandvans" of Suess, which united New Zealand, Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia. And, strongest (9), the Antarctic continent which our Osborn believes in.

Which route did our aborigines take? All American Indians, north and south, "form one race group, sharply characterized, whose language cannot be linked up with any of those of the Old World."

Also, when the Spanish arrived among their most cultured representatives in Mexico and South America, who "had a social organization, a cult, an army, varied industries, grandiose architecture, a system of writing and an astronomical calendar, it was found that they were ignorant of the principle of the wheel (that means of practical transport so universal and ancient that it cannot be dated). They had no knowledge of sails or oars; they had no idea that milk was food; they possessed no lamps, and had neither horses, cattle nor a knowledge of iron."

Brinton says that man, in America, goes back to the glacial period! But the great Marcellin Boule, studying human remains in America, will not date man's arrival there earlier than "the aurora of the present geological period!"

Mr. Vignaud, not working with one

no such relation, are distinctly of the Asiatic yellow race type!

White, yellow, black, these stick! Probably a parent type preceded them. Stuart Chapin (N. Y., 1913) claims that the original type of all is the white man. W. L. Duckworth (Cambridge, 1904) supposes a lost type, from which have come the white and the yellow, but not the black. But according to a very learned Australian, Griffith Taylor, the parent of us all is the black man, and yellow gave birth to white (Geographical Review, N. Y., Jan., 1921). As a fact, the aboriginal Americans did not get rid of their yellow Mongolian characteristics.

"In 1912 an American anthropologist profoundly versed in these subjects," says Mr. Vignaud, "Dr. Hrdlicka, explored Asiatic Siberia" in this sense and "found even more than he had looked for." On the Yenisei River, particularly, among survivors of the purest old populations he found types identical with those of our North American Indians. The identity extended even to mentality, manner of dress, &c. (International Congress of Prehistoric Archaeology, Geneva, 1912).

Holmes, Brinton and the majority of American specialists have come to take this view. In France Marcellin Boule, Verneau, Rivet and Capitan hold to it. So, too, thought Humboldt, Quatrefages, Hamy and Nadaillac. The only differences are as to purity of race. Some think that Malayo-Polynesian emigrations modified considerably the primitive yellow type.

Mr. Vignaud takes small stock in it but they came from northern Asia.

They came in successive small emigra-

tions. They did not have the plow, the use of cereals, nor knowledge of iron. Neither had they flocks. Hunting and fishing they must ever pass onward. The Eskimos formed the first emigration, and special-

Continued on Page Twenty-three.

THE MOTHER OF ALL LIVING

By Robert Keable, Author of "Simon Called Peter"

The New York Times says: "Far and away the most interesting character in the book is the vivid, passionate, intelligent, widely read, ruthless and strong-willed, but generous, fascinating Pamela, who dabbled in strange arts and ran strange risks, besides playing an ugly game from excellent motives."

—Louise M. Field.

All bookstores. \$2; postage extra.

E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 5th Ave., N. Y.

Third Large Printing!
A Best Seller

ROBIN

By FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

"The crowning work of Mrs. Burnett's long and busy career."—John Clair Minot, Boston Herald.

Unforgettable!

THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE OF COOMBE

By FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

Each, cloth \$2.00; leather \$2.50

STOKES, Publisher

WORLD'S THOUGHT GREATEST DISCOVERY

"Mass — Intellectual — Pressure and the Alpha-Math Vibratory Scale"—a 48-page booklet showing the great Brain Wave Cycle and what is Thought, which foretold the EIGHT CONSECUTIVE games of 1921 World's Baseball Series and Thousands of results in all lines of human endeavor—Price \$1.00.

2nd Edition: Sold around the World

MAX STJAUFFER

915 W. Terrell Ave., Fort Worth, Texas, U. S. A.



For the STUDENT

School-day Records, Address and Memory Books, Writing Portfolios, Diaries, Stationery.

Pictures — framed and unframed — Quaint Bits of China and Pottery for Room decoration.

Language Books — Grammars, Text-Books for the Study of French, Italian, Spanish, German.

Art and Architecture, Design, Interior Decoration, Furniture, Rugs, Tapestries, Pottery and Porcelain.

Brentano's
Booksellers to the World

FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK.

BOOKS BOUGHT

Entire Libraries or Single Volumes. Highest prices paid. Representative will call. Cash paid and books removed promptly.

WOMRATH & PECK, Inc.,
Formerly Henry Malkin, Inc.,
42 Broadway, Phone Broad 3900.